GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:638
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
OIL AND GAS BLOCKS TO FOREIGN FIRMS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered 20 oil and gas blocks to foreign firms for exploration;

(b) if so, the details of the firms to whom these have been offered; and

(c) the extent to which India`s surging demand would be fulfilled after exploration of these blocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b):- The Government of India have offered 20 blocks for exploration & production of oil & gas under the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V). NELP provides level playing field for both private (Indian as well as foreign) companies and Public Sector Undertakings for the award of exploration acreages through Global Competitive Bidding. The bids will close on 31.05.05.

(c) Since these are exploration blocks, the hydrocarbon potential in these blocks cannot be assessed at this stage. Commercial production resulting from any discovery will certainly help in reducing the import of hydrocarbons to that extent.